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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/780,499	02/12/2001	Seiji Kishimoto	P20588	8118
7055 7590 05/20/2004 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			EXAMINER NATNAEL, PAULO S M	
			ART UNIT 2614	PAPER NUMBER 11
DATE MAILED: 05/20/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/780,499

Applicant(s)

KISHIMOTO ET AL

Examiner

Paulos M. Natnael

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. As was indicated in the interview and subsequently on the Fax message Re: Status sent to Applicant on 3/25/04, the previous office action should have been non-final but was inadvertently indicated as Final Action. The examiner regrets the confusion.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims **1-5, 7-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,995,140 in view of Yamashita et al, U.S. Pat. No. 5,808,693.

Considering claim **1 (as amended)**, Cooper et al. discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) a plurality of video output sources that output a sync signal and video signal corresponding to said sync signal, is met by Video Inputs #1-#4 from Video cameras 301-304, FIG.3; (see col. 2, lines 62 through col. 3, line 31)

b) a selector that selects the changeover target video output source indicated by a changeover instruction from said plurality of video output sources, is met by Video Switcher 220, FIG.3; (see col. 2, lines 62 through col. 3, line 31)

c) timing synchronizer that synchronizes a sync signal output by said target video output source with a sync signal output by a video output source to be changed, is met by timing Control 210, fig.2;

Except for;

d) the claimed controller that turns on power to said target video output source and that turns off the power to said video output source to be changed, based on the changeover instruction;

Regarding d), Cooper discloses video switcher control 200 fig.1 that controls the operation of the system. Cooper does not specifically disclose whether the controller is capable of turning on or off power to the individual video sources in order save power consumption. However, Cooper discloses camera control codes that are sent to the switcher 220 from the timing controller as shown in fig.3. These camera control codes, given a reasonably broad interpretation, would be utilized by the skilled in the art to control the cameras through the switcher 220, as Cooper's phrase "camera control codes" clearly suggests.

Yamashita et al discloses a video display apparatus with power saving modes, wherein the video display apparatus is capable of receiving multiple video input signals [from multiple video sources such as Cooper's Cameras or other video sources such as a VCR, RF, Cable, satellite, etc] and of reducing its power consumption when each of

those signals becomes inactive. Power consumption is reduced by selecting one mode from a number of power saving modes. (see abstract) Further, Yamashita et al discloses that saving power consumption based on the presence of horizontal and vertical sync signals is well known in the art. (col.2, lines 41-47)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to those with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Cooper by providing the power consumption reduction methods of Yamashita in order for the system to save power when individual video sources are not active or not present at the input terminals of the apparatus so that cost is minimized.

Considering claim **2 (as amended)**, the video output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reset signal generator that generates a reset signal synchronized with a sync signal of the video output source to be changed based on the changeover instruction, wherein the timing synchronizer synchronizes a sync signal output by the target video output source with said reset signal, is met by the disclosure that "If the timing control of a camera capable of external synchronization exceeds an allowable variation from the drive signal, the camera will reset the counter of the timing control in the camera. For example, the cameras 301, 302, 303, and 304 will compare the horizontal drive pulse 710 of the horizontal drive signal 700 with the horizontal synchronization pulse 540 of the video signal 500 for the particular camera to determine if the horizontal counter of the timing control in the particular camera must be reset." (col. 3, lines 38-47, see also line 48 through col. 4, line 5)

Considering claim **3(as amended)**, the video output apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the timing synchronizer outputs the reset signal received from the reset signal generator to the target video output source one of at a reset signal generator timing at which said reset signal generator generates a reset signal or at a change timing that arrives every predetermined number of clock pulses with respect to said reset signal generating timing.

Regarding claim 3, see rejection of claim 2;

Considering claim **4 (as amended)**, the video output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the target video output source comprises a counter that outputs a sync signal when a counted number of reference clock pulses reaches a predetermined number, is met by the disclosure "If the timing control of a camera...exceeds an allowable variation from the drive signal, the camera will reset the counter of the timing control in the camera." (col. 3, lines 40-42)

Considering claim **5 (as amended)**, the video output apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the counter resets an already counted number of reference clock pulses upon reception of a reset signal from the timing synchronizer.

Regarding claim 5, see rejection of claim 4;

Considering claim **7(as amended)**, Cooper discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) a plurality of video output sources that output a sync signal and video signal corresponding to said sync signal, is met by Video inputs 1-4 from Video cameras 301-304, FIG.3;

b) a selector that selects the changeover target video output source indicated by a changeover instruction from said plurality of video output sources, is met by Video Switcher 220, FIG.3;

c) timing synchronizer that synchronizes a sync signal output by said target video output source with a sync signal output by said video output source to be changed, is met by timing Control 210, fig.2;

Except for;

d) the claimed controller that turns on power to said target video output source and that turns off the power to said video output source to be changed, based on the changeover instruction;

Regarding d), see rejection of claim 1(d).

Considering claim **8 (as amended)**, the communication terminal apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a) an image pickup that picks up an image pickup target as an image pickup signal is met by the Cameras 301-304, fig.2;

b) an image pickup video output source that outputs a sync signal and said image pickup signal, is also met by Cameras 301-304, fig.2;

Considering claim **9 (as amended)**,

b) synchronizing a sync signal output from said target signal source with a sync signal output from a signal source to be changed, is met by timing Control 210, fig.2;

c) selecting the changeover target signal source indicated by a changeover instruction, is met by camera control codes from timing control 210 to Video Switcher 220, fig. 3;

Except for;

a) turning on the power to a changeover target signal source based on a changeover instruction;

d) turning off the power to the signal source to be changed.

Regarding a) and d), see rejection of claim 1 (d).

Considering claim **10 (as amended)**, generating a reset signal synchronized with a sync signal of the signal source means to be changed, wherein the synchronizing the sync signal synchronizes a sync signal of the changeover target signal source with said reset signal.

Regarding claim **10**, see rejection of claim 2;



***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed Feb 24, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments

a) In that regard, the differences between the "Video display apparatus" and "video output apparatus" of the presently claimed invention should be apparent, from the understanding of one of ordinary skill in the art, and in view of the limitations of the present claims.

b) Furthermore, Yamashita does not disclose or suggest a controller that controls power to different video output sources based on a changeover instruction.

c) The Examiner has provided no motivation to modify the teachings of cooper in the manner asserted in the official action, except by impermissibly obtaining the combination of features recited in claims 1,7 and 9 in hindsight.

d) Applicants assert that there is no suggestion or teaching in the prior art to modify the teachings of Cooper in the manner required; nor does the outstanding official action assert with any specificity the existence or source of such suggestion or teaching.

Examiner's Response

a) Apparently, applicant's representative believes that "Video display apparatus" would NOT be the same as or similar to "video output apparatus". The attorney is confusing video display apparatus (which is the same as a video output apparatus, i.e., the video output from any source -- camera, memory, VCR, DVD -- is output or displayed, on the display apparatus), with video output source, which could be a camera, memory, DVD, or VCR. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize these differences.

b) As shown in the rejection above, Cooper discloses CAMERA CONTROL CODES being output to video switcher 220 from timing controller 210. Given a reasonably broad interpretation, the camera control codes output from the timing controller 220 of Cooper would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize in order to embed various control instructions including instructions to control the power up and down of the three camera when, for example, they are not being used – as only one camera at a time is being used as a source of the desired video. Those with the ordinary skill in the television or video art, therefore, would be motivated to use these camera control codes for sending control signals including the power on and off of the camera at a time when they are not being used to supply video data, in order to save power consumption, which is one the most important issues of design and engineering, as the skilled in the art would recognize. Lastly, Yamashita may not call his control instruction "changeover instruction", however, Yamashita clearly utilizes sync signals to switch input video signals (fig.2), which are well-known in the video art as control signals. Hence, the

argument that Cooper and Yamashita do not disclose or suggest a "controller" that controls power to different video output sources based on a changeover instruction, is unpersuasive as shown above.

c) Motivation to combine is clearly established because Cooper clearly discloses camera control codes as explained above. See part B.

d) see part B.


### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (703) 305-0019. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (703) 305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PMN  
May 14, 2004



**PAULOS M. NATNAEL**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**